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FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL EXTENDS CONDOLENCE TO U.S. EMBASSY

BK161452 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 16 Feb 79 BK

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that (Shah Mohammad Dost), political deputy foreign minister, went to the American Embassy at 12 noon today and on behalf of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a wreath of flowers on the occasion of the tragic assassination of His Excellency Adolf Dubs, the late U.S. ambassador in Kabul. The charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Kabul was present on the occasion.

The political deputy foreign minister, in expressing the deep condolences and sympathies of the staff of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] on the tragic incident, added: His Excellency Dubs was a very nice person and an able diplomat who had a great interest in strengthening the relations between Afghanistan and the United States and we are sorry that his excellency is no longer with us today.

The political deputy minister said: Undoubtedly all friends of the late ambassador have been grieved by his death, but our grief is more than that of others because unfortunately the incident took place in Kabul. (Shah Mohammad Dost) wished patience and toleration for Mrs Dubs and other relatives of the late ambassador.

Mr (G. Hamston), the Charge d'affaires of the United States Embassy in Kabul in the [words indistinct] the DRA Foreign Ministry and expressed his gratitude to this effect. The deputy chief and some members of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present on the occasion.

KABUL COMMENTARY CONDEMNS ACTS OF TERRORISTS

BK161629 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 16 Feb 79 BK

[Text] The criminal acts of enemies of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] in regard to the assassination of His Excellency Adolph Dubs, the late United States ambassador to Kabul, has been strongly and earnestly condemned by the (?Khalq) regime of the DRA and the people of this country. It has been a terroristic act, and terrorism is always rejected as an evil by the peaceloving DRA and its people.

The enemies of the DRA, upon seeing the eye-catching developments in this country, became jealous of [words indistinct] progress and developments, and due to the fact they are looking forward to creating difficulties and problems for us. Our respected listeners and the objective-minded people of the world are aware that the DRA as a (?Khalq) state constantly takes steps for the welfare and prosperity of the people by meeting people's wants. As these wants and desires are met and as the general populace of this country is still convinced that their (?Khalq) regime is devoting untiring efforts toward the well-being of the people, the downtrodden (?of this nation), it would bring about the jealousy of the enemies of the people of this country. And this is why they are (?seeking ways) ~~desperately to create all sorts of difficulties~~ for our people's regime.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY McCluskey DATE 3-13-81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SECURITY CHIEF DENIES RUSSIAN ADVISERS PRESENT AT HOTEL

LD191243 London THE FINANCIAL TIMES in English 19 Feb 79 p 2 LD

[David Housego dispatch: "Head of Afghan Security Denies Soviet Involvement"]

[Text] Kabul--The head of Afghanistan's security forces, Commandant General Daud Taroon, denied in an interview here that Russian advisers were present at the hotel where Mr Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador was held hostage by terrorists last week before being killed.

The acting U.S. secretary of state, Mr Warren Christopher, has since protested in the strongest terms to the Soviet ambassador in Moscow about the role of Russian advisers in the hours before Mr Dubs's death. American officials here say that four Russian officials were at the Kabul hotel where Mr Dubs was taken by kidnappers on Wednesday. They named one of them as Mr Sergey Bakhturin, the chief of security at the Russian Embassy, while the other three are said to have been advisers to the Afghan police force.

General Taroon, as head of security, had overall command of government forces last Wednesday. But he was not available then to American Embassy staff who wanted to prevent Afghan troops from storming the hotel.

In answer to a question about the U.S. protest he said that no Russian advisers were present on Wednesday. "This was our own operation and we made our own decisions." Pressed further on the point which threatens to sour further U.S.-Soviet relations he repeated his denial and spoke out strongly against foreign reports of the influence of Russians in Afghanistan.

American officials apparently took no pictures of the Russians they say were present. Contrary to reports from Washington, it is also said here that the Russian advisers agreed on Wednesday with American pleas for patience with the terrorists in order to draw them into negotiations.

General Taroon expressed confidence that the government was fully in command of internal security in Afghanistan but said it was impossible to predict terrorist incidents like the one against the American ambassador. Foreign embassies had been advised accordingly. He denied that the kidnapping of Mr Dubs was part of a wide-spread insurgency.

He expressed deep regrets for the death of Mr Dubs. President Nur Mohammad Taraki wrote a personal letter to Mrs Dubs in what, in part, would seem to be an attempt to restore Afghan-U.S. relations.

General Taroon answered questions on the incident after an American colleague and myself had been taken to him when police detained us on Saturday while inquiring into our visas. One of the most powerful men in the present communist regime, he is a tough but often humorous former air force major probably in his forties who speaks some English.